GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
SANTHALI LANGUAGE
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to include Santhali Language in the eighth schedule of the constitution:

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring a Legislation in the current session, to amend the constitution to this effect;

(c) whether the Government have received memorandum in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have not taken a positive step towards constitution of a separate `Santhali Language Committee` so far for protection and promotion of Santhali Language; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (f): Requests have been received to include Santhali Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

As no parameters have been laid down for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, a decision has been taken to constitute a High Powered Body for laying down such a criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule. Action to constitute the proposed Body has already been initiated and the matter about inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution would be considered in accordance with the criteria so evolved. Bringing out legislation in this behalf and other issues would depend on the decision so arrived.